

him to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act”.

SA 5055. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 submitted by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE XI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 1101. OFFSET OF COSTS USING UNOBLIGATED FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021.

Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, of the unobligated balances made available under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2; 135 Stat. 4), or an amendment made by such Act, there is rescinded, on a pro rata basis, \$270,000,000,000.

SA 5056. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 submitted by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

Subtitle C—Other Health Care Matters

SEC. 121. REQUIREMENT OF DENTAL CLINIC OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN EACH STATE.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that each State has a dental clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to service the needs of the veterans within that State by not later than September 30, 2024.

SA 5057. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5051 submitted by Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

Subtitle C—Expansion of Dental Care for Veterans

SEC. 121. PILOT PROGRAM TO FURNISH DENTAL CARE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE SAME MANNER AS ANY OTHER MEDICAL SERVICE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Commencing not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of furnishing dental care in the same manner as medical services furnished by the Department, notwithstanding the limitations on the provision of dental care under sections 1710(c) and 1712 of title 38, United States Code.

(b) **MEDICAL SERVICES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “medical services” has the meaning given that term in section 1701(6) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 122. PILOT PROGRAM ON EXPANSION OF FURNISHING BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DENTAL CARE TO CERTAIN ENROLLED VETERANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Commencing not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary shall furnish dental care to all covered veterans who are not eligible for dental services and treatment and related dental appliances under the laws administered by the Secretary as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **DURATION.**—The pilot program shall be carried out during the two-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(c) **LOCATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program at the following locations:

(A) Each medical center of the Department with an established dental clinic.

(B) Not fewer than four military medical treatment facilities of the Department of Defense with the capacity to furnish dental care, which shall be selected in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

(C) Not fewer than four community-based outpatient clinics with space available for the furnishing of dental care under the pilot program.

(D) Not fewer than four Federally Qualified Health Centers.

(E) Not fewer than four facilities of the Indian Health Service with established dental clinics, which shall be selected in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In selecting locations for the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider the feasibility and advisability of selecting locations in each of the following:

(A) Rural areas.

(B) Areas that are not in close proximity to an active duty military installation.

(C) Areas representing different geographic locations, such as census tracts established by the Bureau of the Census.

(3) **MOBILE DENTAL CLINICS.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall test the efficacy of mobile dental clinics to service rural areas that do not have a population base to warrant a full-time clinic but where there are covered veterans in need of dental care.

(4) **HOME BASED DENTAL CARE.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall test the efficacy of portable dental care units to service rural veteran in their homes, as the Secretary considers medically appropriate.

(d) **SERVICES.**—

(1) **SCOPE.**—The dental care furnished to covered veterans under the pilot program shall be consistent with the dental services and treatment furnished by the Secretary to veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 100 percent disabling under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(2) **DENTAL THERAPISTS AND TELE-DENTISTRY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall test the efficacy of the use of dental therapists and tele-dentistry to service the dental care needs of covered veterans.

(B) **USE OF TELE-DENTISTRY.**—When providing tele-dentistry under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use Federal employees to the maximum extent possible.

(e) **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.**—The participation of a covered veteran in the pilot

program shall be at the election of the veteran.

(f) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **NOTICE TO COVERED VETERANS.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall inform all covered veterans of the services and treatment available under the pilot program.

(2) **COPAYMENTS.**—The Secretary may collect copayments for dental care furnished under the pilot program in accordance with authorities on the collection of copayments for medical care of veterans under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) **CONTRACTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (C), in carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary may enter into contracts with appropriate entities for the provision of dental care under the pilot program.

(B) **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND METRICS.**—Each contract entered into under subparagraph (A) shall specify performance standards and metrics and processes for ensuring compliance of the contractor concerned with such performance standards.

(C) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary may only enter into contracts under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the Department does not employ, and cannot recruit and retain, qualified dentists, dental hygienists, and oral surgeons in the applicable location.

(g) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days before the completion of the pilot program, and not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the implementation and operation of the pilot program.

(B) The number of covered veterans receiving dental care under the pilot program and a description of the dental care furnished to such veterans.

(C) An analysis of the costs and benefits of the pilot program, including a comparison of costs and benefits by location type.

(D) An assessment of the impact of the pilot program on appointments for care, prescriptions, hospitalizations, emergency room visits, wellness, employability, and satisfaction of patients, and perceived quality of life of covered veterans.

(E) An analysis and assessment of the efficacy of mobile clinics and home based dental care to service the dental needs of covered veterans under the pilot program.

(F) An analysis and assessment of the efficacy of dental therapists and tele-dentistry to service the dental needs of covered veterans under the pilot program, to include a cost benefit analysis of such services.

(G) The findings and conclusions of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program.

(H) A comparison of the costs for private sector dental care with cost of furnishing dental care from the Department, broken down by each locality included in the pilot program.

(I) Such recommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate for the expansion of dental care to all veterans eligible for health care from the Department.

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED VETERAN.**—The term “covered veteran” means a veteran enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38,